

RADON ACTION WEEK

October 21-27, 2007

Radon Action Week is October 21-27, 2007 (the third full week in October), and that means it's time to find out more about radon and how you can test your home for this tasteless, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas.

Radon is a naturally occurring element found in almost any kind of soil or rock in at least trace amounts. When it moves to the outdoor air, it gets diluted and isn't much of a problem, but indoors it can accumulate to unhealthy levels, and exposure over time can increase one's risk of lung cancer.



Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. (Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.) EPA estimates that radon results in more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year, and studies indicate that more than 600 of those occur in Michigan alone!



Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive, and homes with elevated radon levels can be fixed. That means these lung cancers are preventable!

Radon levels vary from home to home, and the only way to know if *your* home has a problem is to test *your* home. The coming heating season is the perfect time to test your home. So...

Find out more...Call or visit your local health department; call the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-RADON GAS (1-800-723-6642) or 517-335-8037; or visit the DEQ website at www.michigan.gov/degradon.

Facts About Radon

- ◆ Radon Action Week is October 21-27, 2007!
- ◆ Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, resulting in more than 21,000 new lung cancers each year (more than 600 of those in Michigan alone!).
- ◆ It is a tasteless, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that is naturally occurring in soil and rock.
- ◆ It enters buildings through openings in the foundation floor or walls (sump openings; crawlspaces; floor/wall joints; cracks; space around plumbing, wiring, or ductwork; etc.).
- ◆ It has no warning symptoms (it does not cause headaches, nausea, fatigue, etc.); the only known health effect is an increased risk of lung cancer!
- ◆ Nearly ONE in EIGHT Michigan homes would be expected to have an elevated radon level, and in some counties, more than 40% of the homes could have problems!
- ◆ If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is significantly increased.
- ◆ Testing is easy and inexpensive. It should only take a few minutes of your time.
- ◆ The EPA recommended action guideline is 4 picocuries per liter of air (4 pCi/l). Homes with radon levels of 4 pCi/l or higher should be fixed.
- ◆ Test kits are available from county or city health departments (*generally* for \$10 or less), or from some hardware stores or home improvement centers (*generally* \$15-\$30).
- ◆ The only way to know if your home has an elevated radon level is to test! Test your home today!
- ◆ For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-RADON GAS (1-800-723-6642).